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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An image sensing apparatus, comprising:

an image quality mode setting block for setting ~~only one~~ of a plurality of image quality modes;

a solid state image sensing element for converting an optical image into an electric analog signal; and

~~an a single~~ AD converter for converting the analog signal output from the solid state image sensing element into a single digital signal with a quantization bit count corresponding ~~only to the one~~ image quality mode set by the image quality mode setting block,

wherein the AD converter converts the analog signal output into a digital signal with a quantization bit count selected from a plurality of quantization bit counts, the selected quantization bit count corresponding to the set image quality mode.
- 2-3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a higher image quality mode corresponds to a greater bit count and a lower image quality mode corresponds to a smaller bit count.
5. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a digital signal processing block for performing image processing of the single digital signal output from the AD converter, the digital signal processing block having a

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quantization bit count corresponding to the image quality mode set by the image quality mode setting block.

6. (Original) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the digital signal processing block sets a corresponding quantization bit count when an image quality mode is set by the image quality mode setting block.

7. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising a data thinning block for thinning the output signal from the digital signal processing block.

8. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the digital signal processing block performs color interpolation processing.

9. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising an image storage block for storing the output signal from the digital signal processing block as image data.

10. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising:
an image storage block for storing the output signal from the digital signal processing block as image data; and

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an image display block for displaying an image according to the output signal from the digital signal processing block,

wherein the solid state image sensing element, the AD converter, and the digital signal processing block stop operation while the image display block is displaying an image according to image data stored in the image storage block.

11. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the image sensing apparatus comprises an electronic still camera.

12. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said AD converter receives a bit count conversion signal from said image quality mode setting block, and converts the analog signal based on the bit count conversion signal.

13. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising an image display block for displaying an image according to the output signal from the digital signal processing block, the image display block selecting whether to display the image during storage of image data in the image storage block.

14. (Previously presented) An image sensing apparatus, comprising:

an image quality mode setting block for setting one of a plurality of image quality modes;

a solid state image sensing element for converting an optical image into an electric

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analog signal; and

an AD conversion block for converting the analog signal from the solid state image sensing element into a digital signal, the AD conversion block having a plurality of quantization bit counts corresponding respectively to the plurality of image quality modes,

wherein the AD conversion block is responsive to the image quality mode set by the image quality mode setting block to enable the quantization bit count corresponding to the set image quality mode and to disable the other quantization bit counts.

15. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the AD conversion block comprises an AD converter having a plurality of quantization bit counts corresponding respectively to the image quality modes, wherein the image quality mode setting block selects one of the quantization bit counts.

16. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, wherein a higher image quality mode corresponds to a greater bit count and a lower image quality mode corresponds to a smaller bit count.

17. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising a digital signal processing block for performing image processing of the digital signal from the AD conversion block.

18. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, wherein

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the digital signal processing block sets a corresponding quantization bit count when an image quality mode is set by the image quality mode setting block.

19. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, further comprising a data thinning block for thinning the output signal from the digital signal processing block.

20. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the digital signal processing block performs color interpolation processing.

21. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, further comprising:

an image storage block for storing the output signal from the digital signal processing block as image data.

22. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising an image display block for displaying the image according to the output signal from the digital signal processing block, the image display block selecting whether to display the image during storage of the image data in the image storage block.

23. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, further comprising:

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an image storage block for storing the output signal from the digital signal processing block as image data; and

an image display block for displaying the image according to the output signal from the digital signal processing block,

wherein the solid state image sensing element, the AD conversion block, and the digital signal processing block stop operation during displaying by the image display block of an image based on image data stored in the image storage block.

24. (Previously presented) The image sensing apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the image sensing apparatus comprises an electronic still camera.